

Ten Years and Counting



PHOTO BY SAM THAL

What do all these people have in common? Irene Ogus, Don Albert, Peter Steinberg, Daniel Chesir, Cheryl Orvis, Mike Rankin, Sarah Comerchero, and Paul Cohen were all on hand on Friday, December 26, for the dedication of a plaque honoring our past presidents and co-leaders. Also honored were Rob Montague, Laurie Radovsky, Penny Dachinger, and Maida Cohen.

Lecture Series

Central Issues To Us As A Jewish Community

Rabbi Douglas Kahn of the Jewish Community Relations Council in San Francisco will deliver the third lecture of the season at Sha'ar Zahav on Sunday, March 1, 4 pm.

Since 1982, Rabbi D. Kahn has been Assistant Director at the JCRC, which represents some 55 Jewish organizations and synagogues in the San Francisco area. His responsibilities include areas as diverse as Soviet Jewry, nuclear arms, university campus activities, leadership development, anti-Semitism and Hispanic-Jewish coalition.

A graduate of U.C. Berkeley and a native of San Francisco, Rabbi D. Kahn was

ordained in 1979 at Hebrew Union College in New York. From 1979-1982, he served as Executive Director of the Hillel Foundation at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He has served on the staff of Camp Swig for many years, directing its Leadership Session.

Rabbi D. Kahn will be speaking about issues central to us as part of the Jewish community.

The Education Committee invites both Sha'ar Zahav members and the general public to attend this lecture. A small donation is suggested.

—Eli Weinstein,
for the Education Committee

Feminist Scholar to Speak

Dror Setel, a leading feminist Jewish thinker and writer, will speak on "The Power of Liturgy and the Liturgy of Power" at Shabbat evening services on February 13. Ms. Setel, now rabbinic assistant at Temple Emanu El of Beverly Hills, has studied at Leo Baeck Rabbinical College in London and holds Masters degrees from the Harvard Divinity School and the London School of Economics. She is currently completing her first book, *Making Our Own Way: Feminist Paths in Judaism*. Her talk promises to be challenging and stimulating—please join us.

Regional Biennial Registration

Registration and program information for the UAHC Regional Convention is now available through the synagogue office. For a modest fee of \$25 (meals are additional and optional), you can enjoy a weekend of presentations and workshops on a variety of interesting topics. The program will feature national leaders of the Reform Movement speaking on Reform Judaism in Israel, UAHC Programming, and Community Outreach, as well as a keynote address by UAHC Vice-President Rabbi Daniel Syme. His topic will be "The Challenges Facing Us."

Sha'ar Zahavniks will be leading workshops, participating in Shabbat morning services and study sessions, and the Ensemble will sing at Saturday night dinner. This is an excellent opportunity to share our life experiences with others in the Jewish community. Plan to attend all three days, or at least one or two. Our UAHC region has supported our congregation in many ways; let's return some of that support by participating in this biennial event.

Program brochures are available in the office. Additional information is available through Mike Rankin or Don Albert.

CSZ's Anniversary Party

Mark your calendars now! This is Sha'ar Zahav's 10th Anniversary Year, and as part of our celebrations, a 10th Anniversary Gala will be held on Saturday evening, August 8, at the Green Room—located in the War Memorial Performing Arts Center on Van Ness Avenue, overlooking City Hall. Planning is underway to make this a most memorable evening. Stay tuned to the *Forward* for further details in the coming months.

Super Sunday

It's not too late to sign up. There's still room! Volunteers are being sought for Super Sunday, the day-long community wide phonathon sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation, and scheduled this year for Sunday, February 22 at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco.

"This is the day when 1,000 Jews join together to raise \$2 million to support our community," explained Karen Marcus, JCF Super Sunday coordinator. "In addition to contributing your time in a truly worthwhile manner, participants at Super Sunday get a taste of our community 'reach'," she added.

Volunteers may work on the phones calling Bay Area Jews for their annual donations to the JCF campaign or in a non-telephone support capacity. Shifts, beginning at 9 am, are three hours.

For information, call David Stein, 431-7541, or sign up in the Oneg room. Join the CSZ contingent!

Election Committee Convenes

At the January 12 Va'ad meeting, the Election Committee was officially convened with the appointment of Allan Gold, Chair, Rosalinda Del Moral, Jonathan Funk, Alex Ingersoll and Ora Prochovnick to the committee. Members of the congregation should be aware of the following:

- Elections will be held at the May Congregational Meeting for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recorder, as well as for five positions on the Va'ad.
- Guidelines for qualifications to run for the various offices and the Va'ad will be posted in the Oneg Room or can be requested from the synagogue office.
- In February, the committee will be approaching qualified members to establish a slate of candidates. Interested potential candidates are welcome to contact any member of the committee if they have questions or if they wish to make known their availability for office.
- Any member not included on the Election Committee slate has the opportunity to be considered for candidacy by submitting a written petition to the committee. Please note that petition candidates may run for the offices of President and Vice President only if those races will be contested.

Further information regarding elections, including specific deadlines, will follow in upcoming issues of the *Forward*. In the meantime, members are encouraged to give serious thought to running for office or for the Va'ad; remember, Sha'ar Zahav is only as active and committed as its members are!

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend out sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss:

To **Michael Zimmerman** on the loss of his friend, Charles Solomon.

To **Marion Trentman, Betty Kalis, Cheryl Orvis, Don Albert & Hal Podgur** on the loss of their friend, Bernice Michaelson.

To **Alita Rosenfeld** on the loss of her aunt, Ruth Rosenfeld.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Archetype visual imaging services.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-6594) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

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Women's Havurah

Shira Ozarchu to Teach Folk Dancing

Women in the congregation will have the opportunity to learn and practice folkdancing with noted Bay Area teacher Shira Ozarchu on Sunday afternoon, February 15, in the Oneg Room, from 3–6 pm.

Dana Vinicoff and Nancy Snow, coordinators of the event, report that Ms. Ozarchu teaches at the Jewish Community Center and other Bay Area settings, and they give personal testimony to her expertise as both a dancer and a teacher.

Whether you are a novice or a folk dance maven, be sure to attend and bring your women friends. Admission to this event will be \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members, and light refreshments will be provided.

New members in particular will find Women's Havurah events an excellent way to begin getting acquainted, and all women are welcome, whether new or old members, friends of members, or just interested in Sha'ar Zahav.

Pre-Shabbat Dinner

And we're happy to report our pre-Shabbat dinner was sold out! Two days before the deadline, requests for reservations to attend the Women's Havurah pre-Shabbat dinner on January 16 had to be turned down. Because seating in the Oneg room was a prime consideration, the event was limited to 30 women. In fact, 31 women plus the Rabbi were accommodated.

The Oneg for the entire congregation was also sponsored by the Women's Havurah that evening, and thanks are extended to all of the women who prepared food for the Oneg.

This sold-out event reflects both the renewed activity of the Women's Havurah and the growing number of women in the congregation. Be sure to reserve early for the next event.

Date Change

Due to production delays, the dedication of the first memorial boards in our sanctuary has been rescheduled for Friday evening, March 6.

Reflections on Saturday Morning Services

At ten o'clock in the morning, Sha'ar Zahav's Sanctuary looks entirely different than it does at night. The room has a feel of quiet sunniness when daylight shines through the stained glass, and the street noises are almost non-existent. People in the Upper Market don't zip around at that hour on a Saturday. I can hear Bill in the kitchen making coffee and slicing cake as I roll the Torah to the weekly portion and distribute the handouts. I get a chuckle thinking what my grandparents would have thought about a synagogue where the men are preparing the kiddush and the women are reading the Torah.

By 10:30, there are seven people there, and we decide to get started. With seven to begin, there's a better than good chance we'll have ten by the time we get to Barchu, the first prayer that requires a minyan. When Rabbi Ben was with us, and we had nine just before Barchu, he always said that we could count the Torah as another one. We now have two Torahs, so if no one else shows up, we can count the Torahs to make nine. I decide that we need either more people or more Torahs.

After the service, we move into the oneg room at the only time it's ever big enough, not only to move around in, but to sit down at a table, and have lunch. We make kiddush and motzi and dig into Bill's famous vegetarian chulent, fresh baked challah, and whatever's left over from the night before. It's a leisurely lunch, with lots of laughing, stories, singing and discussions. By the time I leave, I'm always sorry it's over.

I don't go to Saturday morning services every time we have them. In fact, I often don't go unless I'm scheduled to lead them. There are so many other things I have to do on a Saturday morning—spend time with my lover, make plans to see friends, catch up with things I don't have time to do during the week. But every time I am there, I wonder why I don't go more often. It makes a significant impact on the whole day, and beyond the day. In our world, it's easy to make Friday night into Shabbat, and forget about Saturday. But a few hours on Friday night aren't enough. And I guess that's what Saturday morning services do to me. They change the whole day from Saturday to Shabbat.

—Leslie Bergson

Women's Conference

Early registration is well underway for the much anticipated Women's Conference, "A Taste of Honey," to be held May 15, 16 and 17 at UAHC Camp Swig.

Women who have not yet registered are reminded that early registration not only is money-saving (rates increase after March 15) but space is limited and those registering early will have choices in workshops and cabin-mates that may not be available to later registrants.

Women planning to bring children to the conference should call Susan Greenspan at 821-3837, so that the program and activities for children can be geared to the size and age of the group.

Some scholarship assistance is available for Sha'ar Zahav members. For further information about any aspect of registration, call Betty Kalis at 221-2265, or drop a note to the synagogue office. Women who have friends who may be interested in attending but may not be on the mailing list are urged to give their names to the Conference Committee.

Please,

don't forget our brothers in need.
Keep filling the shul's collection
baskets with non-perishable food
and other household items for
the SF AIDS Foundation's
residence program

Children's Havurah Shabbat Potluck

The Children's Havurah will be gathering for a Shabbat Potluck on Friday, February 20, 6 pm, at Ida Kuluk's home in Oakland. Join us for candlelighting, challah, good food, song and company, of course.

The Shabbat Potluck will be a good time for families and children to get to know each other a little better and to celebrate Shabbat family style! Everyone is welcome.

Please call the Sha'ar Zahav office to let us know you're coming and for directions.

—Jill Rose, Co-Chair

Coming Out Again

My favorite line (this month) in the entire Jewish tradition is found in the Passover Hagadah: "In every generation, each person must consider themselves as having gone forth from Egypt." This simple sentence sums up for me the Jewish outlook on history. The Hagadah teaches that liberation is a *collective* experience: my own freedom is only possible as part of the exodus of all oppressed.

The gay/lesbian parallel to the Exodus is "coming out." In contrast to the Exodus, which was a communal, external event, coming out seems individual and internal—at least at first. But although coming out begins as a personal transformation, we soon recognize, in this new context, that the Hagadah's message still applies. The liberation of lesbian and gay people from oppression is linked to the progress of the community as a whole.

Sha'ar Zahav is doubly blessed, as an inheritor of both Jewish and lesbian/gay traditions. Modern Jews, although largely free of the oppression previous generations knew, have not forgotten the meaning of the Exodus—evidenced, for example, by the support of sanctuary for Central American refugees by many synagogues, including our own. Gay and lesbian Jews also have opportunities to show our special commitment to liberation, and I believe that one is facing our congregation now.

Most of the lesbian and gay members of Sha'ar Zahav are "out" in all aspects of their lives. For many, Sha'ar Zahav itself was the safe place where we could begin the process of coming out. We are justly proud of the home we have created for ourselves—where we can be open, accepted, and welcomed as who we are.

I do not believe that anyone seeks to exclude others at Sha'ar Zahav. Our memory of being excluded by "traditional" synagogues and other institutions has made accessibility and openness one of the paramount mitzvot at our shul. Still, even at our synagogue many try to remain invisible, or have not yet summoned up the courage to walk through the door, out of fear of intolerance and rejection. They would like to come out, to know the joy of liberation, and our attitudes and actions can help or hinder them.

One large such group, just beginning to come out at our synagogue, are people recovering from alcohol and substance

abuse. The problem of such abuse in the gay and lesbian community is well known, but I believe we have been reluctant to admit to its presence amongst us. Many of us still want to believe the myth that "Jews don't drink" and certainly never become alcoholics. In recent weeks, a number of synagogue members have assured me that alcohol and substance abuse "is just not a problem for us."

I cannot agree. In recent months, since an Alcoholics Anonymous group especially for Jews began meeting at Sha'ar Zahav, my consciousness has been rapidly raised. Several members of our synagogue have told me how important it is to them to have a place where they can be out as a Jew and as a person in recovery.

I am glad that we are supporting our members and friends in their coming out and in their recovery. I pray that others who have not yet begun the process of recovery will be encouraged to do so. I trust that our members and congregation will continue to grow in our acceptance and support for one another, bringing us to the day when all shall be free.

—Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn

Note: The AA meeting for Jews in Recovery meets Sunday evenings at 6:30 in the Oneg Room. For further information, contact Amy Blasenheim at 752-9418, or Rabbi Kahn.

Share "Coming Out" Stories

Here is the perfect opportunity to recycle those anecdotes pertaining to "coming out" as Jews, lesbians and gays. Your own definition of "coming out" will be good enough for us! Come and share your stories on Saturday, February 21 from 3–5 pm at the synagogue. We will get to know each other a little better and have a lot of fun.

Please bring a snack to share so we can all enjoy light refreshments. In deference to CSZ's Kashrut policy, please check the ingredients and avoid items made with animal fat (including those labeled "animal or vegetable fat").

See you on the 21st for a very revealing afternoon.

—Cheryl Orvis
Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Mackler

Jackson Loos & Sue Sommer Loos, in memory of Ruth Wishner

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Whitey Wischart

Sen Talley, in memory of Allan Kimerling

Ben Schalit, in honor of our past presidents

Dvora Honigstein
Richard Inlander, in honor of Martha Ross's S.F. Opera Debut, the birth of Matthew Howard, Don Albert's 40th birthday, and Leila & Catherine's new home

Adrianne Forshay, Blanche Blachman, Benjamin Blachman Forshay, in memory of Ben Blachman

Steve Greenberg, in memory of Ruth Wishner

Bernard Pechter

Cheryl Orvis, in memory of Ruth Wishner and Allan Kimerling

Steve Elman, in appreciation of the Ritual Committee

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Renee & Marc Lipschutz, in memory of A. Martin Lipschutz—husband of Renee and father of Marc

Mike Rankin, in memory of Ruth Wishner and Allan Kimerling

Effrem Grail, in honor of Tiela Chalmers' sermon

Richard Crane, with many thanks to Rabbi Kahn

George Ash, in memory of his friend, Daniel Alfieri

Enoch Harrison

Richard Inlander, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn

Building Fund

Enoch Harrison, in honor of Alex & David's anniversary

Harold Parker

Richard Inlander, in honor of our past presidents

Don Albert, in memory of Bernice Michaelson

Bob Goldware & Jay Feinstein, in honor of Don Albert's birthday

Charles Norton

(Continued on page 9)

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad's first meeting of 1987 was held on Monday, January 12. In his *D'var Torah*, Rabbi Kahn explained the Talmudic custom of saying a blessing upon seeing leaders, thanking God for their wisdom, intellect, and rationality.

Membership Committee chair Robin Leonard presented 10 new membership applications, which the Va'ad unanimously approved.

The Va'ad considered and adopted guidelines for memorial plaques. The names of deceased members of Sha'ar Zahav will be placed at the top of the two memorial boards that will be dedicated March 6.

Social Action Committee chair Ami Zusman described CSZ's participation in the Tenderloin Shabbat program, which will be supported by a Va'ad-approved expenditure from the Social Action Fund.

The Va'ad voted to accept the recommendation of President Irene Ogus to name an Elections Committee, consisting of Jonathan Funk, Alex Ingersoll, Rosalinda Del Moral, and Ora Prochovnick, and chaired by Allan Gold.

The Va'ad approved the formation of an ad hoc committee (consisting of the President, the Vice President, and the chair of the Finance Committee) to hold an open meeting for presenting facts and recommendations about computer hardware and software, and to decide on the selection and purchase of a computer for the synagogue. The necessary funds have already been generously donated.

Eric Keitel briefly described plans for the celebration of Sha'ar Zahav's 10th Anniversary, set for Saturday, August 8.

The Va'ad met during an executive session to discuss the financial terms of Rabbi Kahn's contract for the next two years. It is anticipated that agreement will be reached shortly on the new contract which will include raising Rabbi Kahn's position to full-time.

This amazingly productive meeting ended with the customary singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

Anniversary

2/23 Luana Willis
& Yael Silverberg

Calendar for 5747

March 1987

- 1 Rabbi Douglas Kahn Lecture
- 6 Memorial Board Dedication
- 14 Erev Purim Service
- 21 Women's Havurah Video Night

April 1987

- 12 Women's Havurah
- Magnes Museum Docent Tour
- 13 Erev Pesach (1st Seder)
- 14 Community Seder (2nd Night)
- 26 Yom Hashoah Service

May 1987

- Congregational Meeting/Elections
- 15-17 Women's Conference
- 17 Lag B'Omer Service

June 1987

- Parade
- Installation of Officers
- 2 Erev Shavuot Service & Potluck
- 21 Women's Havurah
- Solstice Pool Party

July 1987

- Leadership Advance

August 1987

- 4 Tisha B'av
- 8 10th Anniversary Gala

September 1987

- 23 Erev Rosh Hashanah (10/2-Kol Nidre)

Share Shabbat Lunch With the Jewish Elderly

On Friday, February 20, from 11 am to 2 pm, you have a chance to share Shabbat songs and joy—and a lot of fun—with the Jewish elderly of the Tenderloin district. This is the date of CSZ's special Shabbat luncheon for the Jewish elderly, sponsored in conjunction with the Jewish Family and Children's Services. Come (for part or all of the time) to decorate, serve lunch, sing and talk. The luncheon will be at the YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

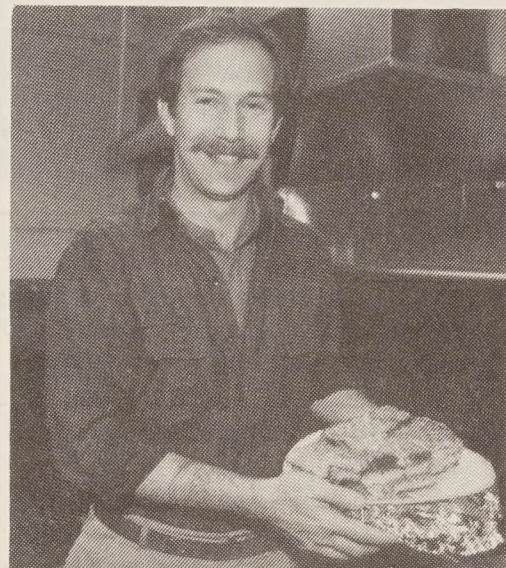
For more information—and to make your plans to come—please contact Ami Zusman or Rabbi Kahn by February 13.

—Social Action Committee

Cafe Latke Grande.....

On Saturday, December 27, members and friends of Sha'ar Zahav gathered at Sherith Israel for a south-of-the-border celebration of Chanukah featuring a massive menorah lighting ceremony, latkes mit salsa, dancing, a silent auction, sangria, a special tasting of kugel recipes from the soon-to-be-published CSZ Cookbook, and the drawing of raffle winners.

Sometime soon, while we're all shivering, Dana Vinicoff and Nancy Snow will be sunning in Puerto Vallarta, as winners of the grand prize of our Annual Chanukah Raffle.



Thanks to Jane Graeven for seeking our raffle donations, and to the many donors of raffle prizes: Animal Company, Bredwell-Meyer Florist, Church Street Faire, Cliff's Variety, Cocolat, Double Rainbow, Great Frame-Up, Green's Restaurant, Harmony Stereo, High Gear, Holey Bagel, Jerusalem Shoppe, Klein's Delicatessen, Le Domino, Shirley Liberman, On The Rack, Pier 1, Sweet Sue's Bakery, Uncle Gaylord's, Wildwood Resort and Willow Retreat.

The Silent Auction corner brought heavy bidding, and some chuckles, at gifts including art objects and donated professional services as diverse as shabbat dinner with the rabbi, a month of challahs, framed Hebrew calligraphy, a picnic prepared by the Cookbook Committee, a grand tour of San Francisco in a Mustang convertible and a Jewish "treat of the month."

Thanks to Ralph Frischman for coordinating the silent auction and thanks to the many donors: Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Mirtha Beal, Amy Blasenheim, Howard Blechman, Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, Aaron Cooper, Steve Elman,

(Continued on page 7)

FEBRUARY

שבט

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Shevat 1	3 2	4 3	5 4	6 5	7 6	8 7
	Education Comm. 7:30pm	Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Class, 7:30pm Newsletter Comm. 130E Landers, 7:30pm		Services, 8:15pm	
9 8	10 9	11 10	12 11	13 12	14 13	15 14
	Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Soviet Vigil Green & Baker, 11:30am Class, 7:30pm	Bikkur Cholim Comm. 7:30pm Social Action Comm. 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm Drora Setel, Speaker	Tu B'Shevat
16 15	17 16	18 17	19 18	20 19	21 20	22 21
Women's Havurah Folkdancing, 3pm		Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Class, 7:30pm		Tenderloin Shabbat Lunch, 11am Children's Havurah Potluck, Oakland, 6pm Services, 8:15pm	Coming Out Stories, 3pm
23 22	24 23	25 24	26 25	27 26	28 27	29 28
Super Sunday Telethon Fairmont Hotel		Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Class, 7:30pm	Ritual Comm., 6:30pm Newsletter Mailing 11 Grandview Terr., 7:30pm	UAHC Regional Conf. San Rafael Services, 8:15pm	UAHC Regional Conf. San Rafael Morning Service, 10:30am

Ritual Calendar

Friday, February 6

Parshah: Bo, Ex. 10:1-13:16

Haftarah: Jer. 46:13-28

Tiela Chalmers

Friday, February 13

Tu B'Shvat

Shabbat Shira

Parshah: B'Shalach, Ex. 13:17-17:16

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

Steve Greenberg & Daniel Chesir

Friday, February 20

Parshah: Yitro, Ex. 18:1-20:23

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6

Garry Koenigsberg

The Haftarah will be read.

Friday, February 27

New Member Shabbat

Shabbat Sh'kalim

Parshah: Mishpatim, Ex. 21:1-24:18

Maftir: Ex. 30:11-16

Haftarah: I Sam. 20:18-42

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Saturday, February 28

Morning Service, 10:30 am

Ritual Committee

Exhibition on Arab Jews

The Judah L. Magnes Museum has announced an exhibition on the Jews of Djerba, the last remaining major Arab Jewish community. Thirty-six photographs by California photographer Keren Freedman, and an accompanying display of costumes and jewelry for daily and festive wear, offer a glimpse at life in this ancient and still thriving Jewish community off the coast of Tunisia. The exhibition will open on Sunday, February 15, with a lecture from 2 to 4 pm on the Jewish community of Djerba by Professor Lucette Valensi of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and the University of California at Berkeley. The exhibition will continue through April 26.

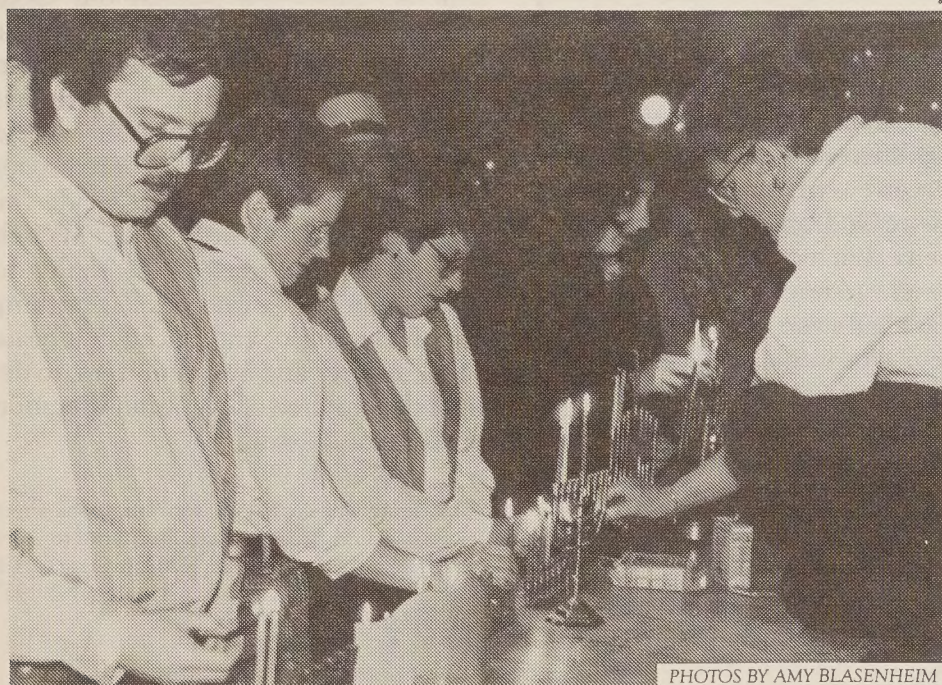
Also on exhibit through April 26 are serigraphs by Israeli artist Shlomo Katz, based on his oil paintings for the United States Air Force Academy Chapel, which are divided into three sections: "In Honor of the Air Force," "Justice," and "Brotherhood."

The Magnes Museum is located at 2911 Russell Street in Berkeley, and is open from 10 am to 4 pm Sundays through Thursdays.

Birthdays

- 3 David Gass
- 5 Ami Zusman
- 7 Mark Mendelow
- 9 Mark Freeman
- 10 Howard Taske
- 11 Robert Stern
- 12 Barry Rosen
- 14 Susan Unger
- 14 Sue Douglass
- 14 Irene Ogus
- 14 Ron Wolberg
- 15 Russell Discher
- 17 Yael Silverberg
- 17 Barry Siegel
- 22 Gail Friedlander
- 23 Hal Heller
- 25 Earl Diskin
- 25 Alex Ingersoll
- 27 Leila Raim
- 28 Joel Wasser
- 28 Bruce Katz

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PHOTOS BY AMY BLASENHEIM

Michael Erceg, Ralph Frischman, Jeanette Gaber, Jane Graeven, Neil Hart, Richard Inlander & Ben Schalit, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Eric Keitel, Allyce Kimerling, Kipp Leyser, Shirley Liberman, Francie McGowan, Mark Mendelow, Mike Rankin, Jerry Rosenstein, David Shaber, David Stein & Alex Ingersoll, Nancy Stern, Rebecca Swisher and Joel Wasser.

Shirley Liberman coordinated the event with help from Joel Wasser who handled decorations (donated by Richard Lindenberg); Yoram Gal, food and beverage coordinator; Rosalinda Del Moral, volunteer coordinator; Randy Schiller, sound and lighting; Francie McGowan, signs; Jay Feinstein and Catherine Wisniewski and 40 other volunteers who cooked latkes, transformed the hall into Cafe Latke Grande, staffed various tables and helped clean up. Thanks to all.

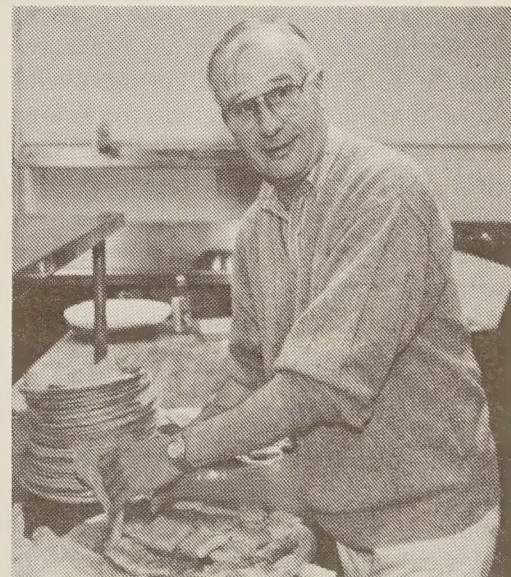
High Holiday Contributions, Part III

We're still catching up with the wonderful response to this year's High Holiday appeals. Our thanks to the following group of contributors, who join those reported in the last two issues of the *Forward* as supporters of Sha'ar Zahav.

Mike Abramson
Roy Bateman
Mirtha Beal
Michael Bettinger
Amy Blasenheim
David Delroy
Susan Douglass
Alan Goodman
Jane & Mark Graeven
Arnold Grossman
Les Guliasi &
Nancy Greenman
Randy Heilbrunn
Marilyn Hertzberg
Steven Horowitz
Kaye Hoxter

Liz Jacobs &
Kasey Brenner
Betty Kalis
Elizabeth M. Katz
Eric Keitel
Garry Koenigsberg
Walter Leiss
Michael Michlin
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Miguel
Mary Morgan
Walter Palmer
Sam Picciotto
Leila Raim
Mike Rankin
Roz Reiter

Rhona Rosenberg &
Kathryn Patterson
Jerry Rosenstein
Terry Rothchild
Cynthia Schorr
Nikki Schrager
Stephen Shotland
Molly Singer
Ailsa Steckel
Sen Talley
Sam Thal
Susan Unger
Stephen Walters
Wilmer Weiss
Sue Carol Witt
Paul Wotman



So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Can you tell me anything about the Tu b'Shvat holiday? I asked some of my friends who grew up back East about it, but they just started giggling and singing very silly songs.

Guessing On Guerrero

Dear Guessing,

Let Aunt Yente first say Phooey to your friends who giggle at your question. But personal you shouldn't take it. Probably your friends know only silly things about Tu b'Shvat; and although Aunt Yente isn't sure what you mean back East (the other side of Chicago, or of the Urals?), everywhere people make fun of questions when they don't know answers.

Tu b'Shvat is New Year for trees. The Torah has many laws about trees: the first few years the fruits you can't eat, and some every year went to the temple. So the question was, when begins a "year" for a tree? According to the Talmud, the year for trees begins on the fifteenth day of the month of Shvat, when the winter rain is almost over. "*Tu*" is a quick way of saying fifteen in Hebrew (which is another column); so Tu b'Shvat, the fifteenth day of Shvat, is New Year for the trees.

So if all this makes you think of a bunch of eucalyptus putting on silly hats and maybe dropping a giant apple at midnight, you're not alone. Also, we no longer give fruit for the temple, so the original purpose from the holiday is missing; and, frankly, Shvat is *takke* a little early for tree visiting. If your friends grew up in Minnesota (or was it Omsk or Tomsk?) and were dragged into the woods every February to enjoy spring, you can understand if they still giggle nervously over Tu b'Shvat.

For those of us smart enough to live in California, though, spring *has* almost begun by Tu b'Shvat. And certainly your Aunt Yente is the last person to say anything against a celebration of all the beautiful growing things (as opposed to a certain earlier winter holiday which centers around tree murder, proving that we're not the only religious tradition with *eppes* some room for improvement). But for Aunt Yente, the most important part of Tu b'Shvat is the mystical tradition around it.

So first let's have an understanding. In three paragraphs Aunt Yente can explain about as much about the Kaballah, our mystical tradition, as she can about sub-particle atomic relativity (but look for her

article, "Searching Your Particle Accelerator for Chumetz", in the Pesach issue of *Glatt Physicist*.) But when has that stopped her before?

So one of the things Kaballah looks to explain is how God, endless and perfect, created the imperfect, impermanent world. And what is said (as far as Aunt Yente can understand it, which is less far even than from Omsk to Tomsk) is that God, being perfect, is generous, wanting to give. But until there is something different from God, there is nothing to be generous to. So God moved through what are called the Sfiros, different levels of being, from an infinite, unknowable Everything to a Creator who could create something separate.

The something separate God created is the world, which is different from God in one important way: just as God wants to give, so the world wants to receive. But here is a problem. If God is perfect, so something different is not perfect. The desire to receive is what makes the world different from God, and it is from the desire to receive that most of the evil in the world comes. (Another Yiddishe boy named Marx had a very similar theory, although he maybe wouldn't like the comparison).

So to repair the break between God and the world, the Kaballah teaches us to change our desire to receive into the desire to give, and not just in being generous with each other (which goes without saying). Instead of just taking all the wonderful things we receive each day, we need to *take* with the desire to *give* God what God wants, which is to give things to us. So if a wonderful, ripe apple is in front of us, we don't *fress*; instead, we say a blessing, and we think of the tree, and the sun, and the rain, and the farmworker, and the store clerk, who were all created by God (even that nasty produce person in Safeway) and are all part of how God got the apple to us. And we think as we eat, "Just as You want me to enjoy this, so I want to fulfill Your desire for me to enjoy this."

So what does all this have to do with Tu b'Shvat? Well the Sfiros, the different levels of God's emanations which create the world, are often pictured as a tree. So to the Kaballists, New Year for the trees symbolized New Year for the Tree of the Sfiros, a celebration of the mystical parts of creation. Aunt Yente suspects that the original Kaballistic ceremony, of eating twelve soft and hard-shelled fruits symbolizing

twelve different Sfiros, is going maybe a little far for most of her readers. But *nebech* eating a nice piece of fruit or two is no hardship; and going outside and visiting the trees, if you promise your Aunt Yente to dress warm, is also very nice. And when you do these things, if you maybe say a blessing, and remember that just as the trees and their fruit were planned as part of creation, it was also planned that you should enjoy them and be happy, so maybe you and Aunt Yente can share a nice happy giggle when we think of Tu b'Shvat.

Aunt Yente

P.S. If you are maybe looking for a traditional blessing or two, the one for eating fruit is "Bless You Adonai our God, Guardian of all things, who creates the fruit of the tree (*borei p'ri ha-eitz*)". When you look at the trees, it is "... who has placed such things in Your world (*shecacha lo b'olohmo*)", or for redwoods and sequoias, "... who has made the mighty works of creation (*oseh ma'aseh b'reishis*)". If the trees are beginning to blossom, it is "... who has left nothing out of Your world, and placed in it beautiful creatures and beautiful trees, to delight the children of Eve" (transliteration optional and extra.)

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1987 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Oneg Sponsors

During December, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 5 Betty Kalis and Marion Trentman, in honor of Leslie Bergson to thank her for her class
- 12 Education Committee, in honor of National Jewish Book Month and Book Faire

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Yahrzeits

- 1 Goldie Kornblit Lieberman, mother of Gershon Lieberman
- 2 Eleanor Pranke, grandmother of Dan Bellm
- 2 (3 Shevat) Sol Weinstein, father of Eli Weinstein
- 3 Leon Childress, father of Joyce Amburgey
- 3 Lee Hartstone, father of Jane Stone
- 4 (5 Shevat) Max Rosenstein, father of Jerry Rosenstein
- 4 Bette Friedman, mother of Jeff Friedman
- 7 Annie Levy, aunt of Shirley Liberman
- 11 (12 Shevat) Clare Schmidt, grandmother of Don Albert
- 13 Anna Pearl Gilkey, friend of Janice Macomber
- 14 Anne Herman Shapiro, mother of Marilyn Braiger
- 15 Yetta Shuchat, grandmother of David Stein
- 15 Ben Shuchat, grandfather of David Stein
- 17 Michael Feldstein, grandfather of Rena Frantz
- 17 Abraham Spiro, grandfather of Shelley Spiro
- 18 (19 Shevat) Abraham Bettinger, father of Michael Bettinger
- 20 (21 Shevat) Jonathan Halpern, friend of Jonathan Schwartz
- 21 (22 Shevat) Minnie Wiseman, grandmother of Jonathan Funk
- 21 Asher Liberman, father of Shirley Liberman
- 21 Steven Richter, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
- 21 Gary Walsh, friend of Sharyn Saslafsky
- 22 (23 Shevat) Morris Richshafer, uncle of Sherie Ann Koshover
- 26 (27 Shevat) Rose Kramer, grandmother of Steven Cronenwalt
- 26 Joseph Fichelson, grandfather of Kipp Leyser
- 27 Gertrude Liberman, mother of Shirley Liberman
- 28 (29 Shevat) Catherine Albert, grandmother of Don Albert
- 28 Samuel Dreskin, father-in-law of Barry Siegel

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Kurt Richard Stutzman 1950-1987

Metropolitan Community Church and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav shared a painful loss last month. Kurt Stutzman, a friend of CSZ and MCC both, died on January 8, surrounded by loving friends and family. His 20-month struggle with AIDS was characterized by courage, growth, and consideration for others.

Kurt was born in Los Angeles on April 27, 1950, and grew up in Pasadena. He was a graduate of the University of California at Davis. His life's work included teaching, carpentry, and property management.

We will think of Kurt often: not only when we use the booth he built for us at Gay Freedom Day, but whenever we remember his generosity, his talents for listening and organizing, and his love.

Office Notes

Thank you to Peter Abinanti for his creative and organizational skills, to Paul Cohen and Richard Inlander for their insight into the mad world of paper organization, to Annie Kennedy for braving the mid-week arctic cold in the sanctuary to tune our piano, and to Eli Weinstein for his patience, innovation and reliable office substitution.

Several gifts in the past month have made the office a much more efficient and pleasant environment: Thanks to Steve Unger for the "magic" typewriter (with a typing table provided by Jacqueline Letalien), and to Bob Goldware, thanks to whom the rabbi's office finally has comfortable chairs (and another bookcase).

Please note:

- The access code to the Oneg Room door has been changed; please call the office if you need access to that room.
- When you change your address, work or home phone number(s), please contact the office. It is costing us a small fortune to find out from the post office that you have moved.
- Finally, please send all donations, dues, and membership materials directly to the synagogue office. Directing those materials to someone's home address can delay their processing.

—Jacqueline Letalien

Contributions

(Continued from page 4)

Torah Fund

Marion Trentman & Betty Kalis, in honor of Don Albert's birthday
Don Albert, in memory of Evelyn Brian

Library Fund

Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman, in memory of Allan Kimerling and Bernice Michaelson; in honor of Leila Raim's birthday
Allan Berenstein & Ed Piretti, in honor of Don Albert's 40th birthday
Jonathan Funk, in memory of Allan Kimerling
Richard Inlander, in honor of Ben Schalit
Steve Elman, in honor of Tiela Chalmers passing the Bar exam; in memory of Ruth Wishner

Social Action Fund

Marsha Blachman, in honor of Berek Blachman
Richard Inlander, in honor of the Social Action Committee

AIDS Fund

Richard Crane

Education

Marion Trentman, to celebrate the birth of Sandi Blair and Carol Cohen's daughter, Hannah

Naches

Sharyn Saslafsky was recently appointed by Congresswoman Barbara Boxer as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Congratulations to Janine Baer on receiving her teaching credentials.

Alice Perlman has finished law school and is now studying for the Bar.

* * *

We'd all like to share in the *naches* of members of our Sha'ar Zahav family. If you or someone you know has something special to share with *Forward* readers, please contact the synagogue office.

SPONSOR AN ONEG!

It's a great way to celebrate a special occasion.

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

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Vice President, Richard Inlander
Treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein
Recorder, Ben Schalit

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Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Secretary:

Jacqueline Letalien

The Synagogue Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.—check calendar for each month.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Sanctuary Bond Fund

Sha'ar Zahav has a special Sanctuary Fund for refugees who have fled violence and persecution in El Salvador and Guatemala. This fund, established as part of Sha'ar Zahav's Covenant of Sanctuary, provides bail monies to refugees who have been incarcerated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Because refugees are often held for long periods of time in centers far from access to lawyers, bond enables them to pursue legal remedies for political asylum in the U.S.

If you wish to contribute to this Fund—to honor someone, celebrate or commemorate an occasion, or for any other reason—you may write a check to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, designated for the Sanctuary Fund. Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information on Sha'ar Zahav's Sanctuary activities, contact Ami Zusman, Chair of the Social Action Committee.

Sibling Note

Chicago: Mazel Tov to Or Chadash, which has announced the hiring of Roy Furman as its rabbi. Rabbi Furman comes to the congregation from a position at a synagogue in Portland.

New Members

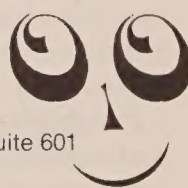
The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in January. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family, including:

Stephen Davis & Kent Taylor
Eileen Dunn
Nancy Epstein
Morgan F., Jasmine M.,
Sasha, Shem and Maacah
Jared Goldfine
Simma Lieberman
Rebecca Swisher
Shelly Wald
Andy Zimmerman

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Dr. Barak Gale

Optometrist



209 Post Street, Suite 601
San Francisco
California 94108
(415) 421-0964

The Women of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
invite you to a Weekend of Jewish Celebration
for Jewish Lesbians and their Women Friends

A Taste of Honey

GATHERING OF THE 13th TRIBE...

THE TRIBE OF WOMEN

Dates

May 15, 16, and 17, 1987
Friday 2 p.m. through Sunday 4 p.m.

Location

Camp Swig—a beautiful redwood setting in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Saratoga, 1½ hours drive from San Francisco

Activities

- Shabbat Services
- Workshops
- Mural of Biblical and Historical Jewish Women
- Ladino Music
- Israeli Folkdance
- Campfire
- Swimming and Sports
- The Great Outdoors
- Shmoozing
- Saturday Night Dance Party

Workshops

- (partial list)
- Creating Women's Rituals
 - Living as a Lesbian in Israel
 - The Role of the Cultural Jew
 - Legal Issues for Lesbians
 - Jewish Lesbians and the Goddess
 - Jewish Lesbian Mothers
 - Keeping Personal Power in Intimate Relationships
 - Jewish Lesbians with Non-Jewish Partners
 - Anti-Semitism in the Women's Movement
 - Jews by Choice
 - Jewish Lesbians: Food and Self-Image
 - Intergenerational Issues

Special Children's Program



Register early and be a part of A Taste of Honey . . .

Share experiences and ideas as Jewish Lesbians in an all-woman setting.
Your children will enjoy the special program arranged for them.

Fee Covers *all* lodging, food and activities.

Adult: \$90 members \$105 non-members Paid by March 15, 1987
 100 members 120 non-members Paid after March 15, 1987

Child:	<u>Age</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
	Under 2	Free	Free
	2-5	\$20	\$25
	6-12	45	50
	13-18	60	70

Boys under 10 years old welcome.

Deposit: *A 20 percent deposit will reserve your place at A Taste of Honey.
If you send full payment by March 15, you will receive the
reduced early registration rate.*

Send Registration form and payment to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Questions? Call Betty Kalis, (415) 221-2265.

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

Number of adults attending _____ Number and ages of children _____

Amount of deposit \$ _____ Balance Due \$ _____

Credit Card: Visa _____ MC _____ Number _____ Exp. _____

Bank No. (MC only) _____ Signature _____

Additional Contribution to Weekend Scholarship Fund (optional) \$ _____

Please tell us about any special needs you may have (wheelchair access; attendant care;
signing; dietary—Kosher, vegetarian; or any others):

Space is limited so plan now to attend! See you in the redwoods!